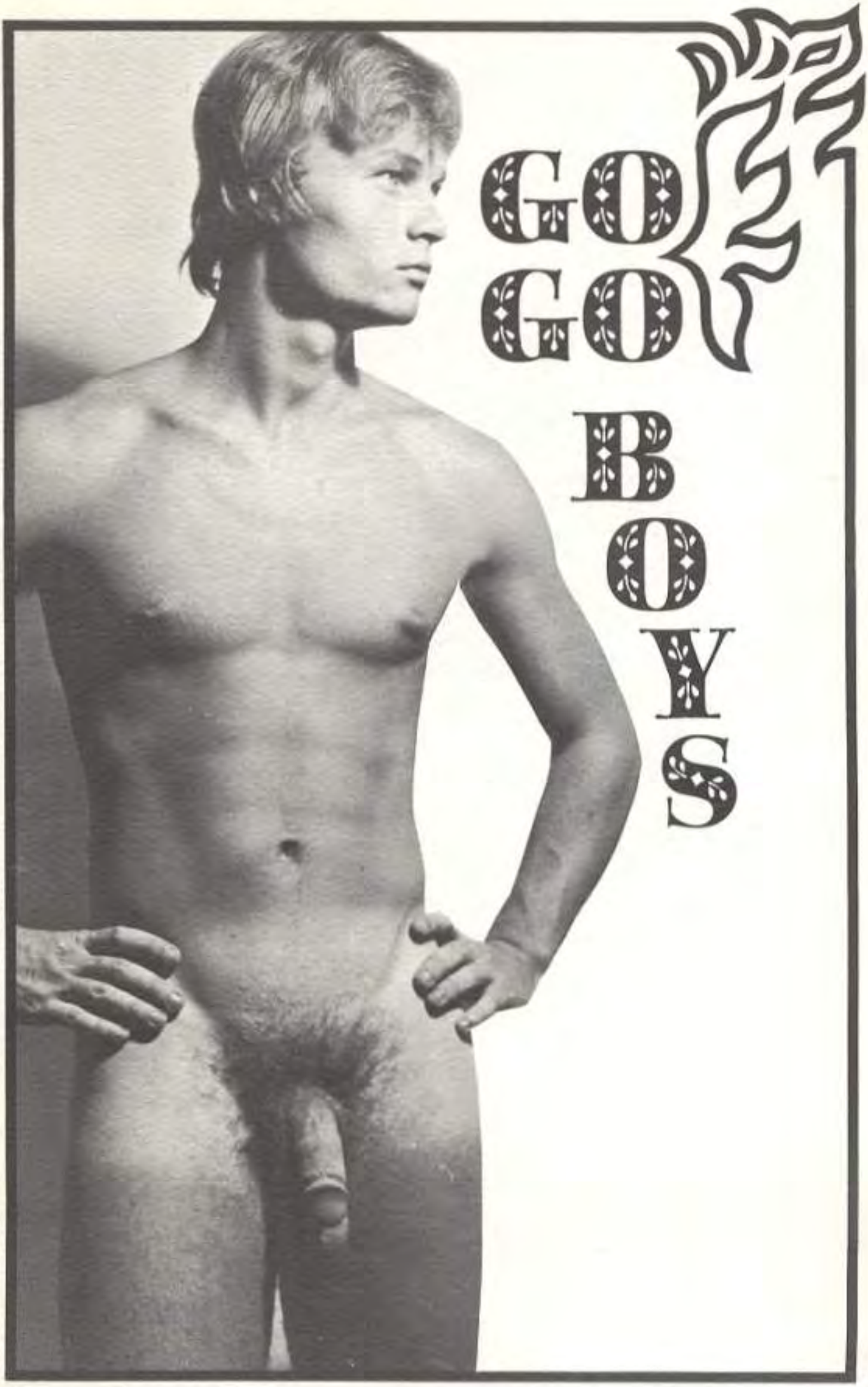
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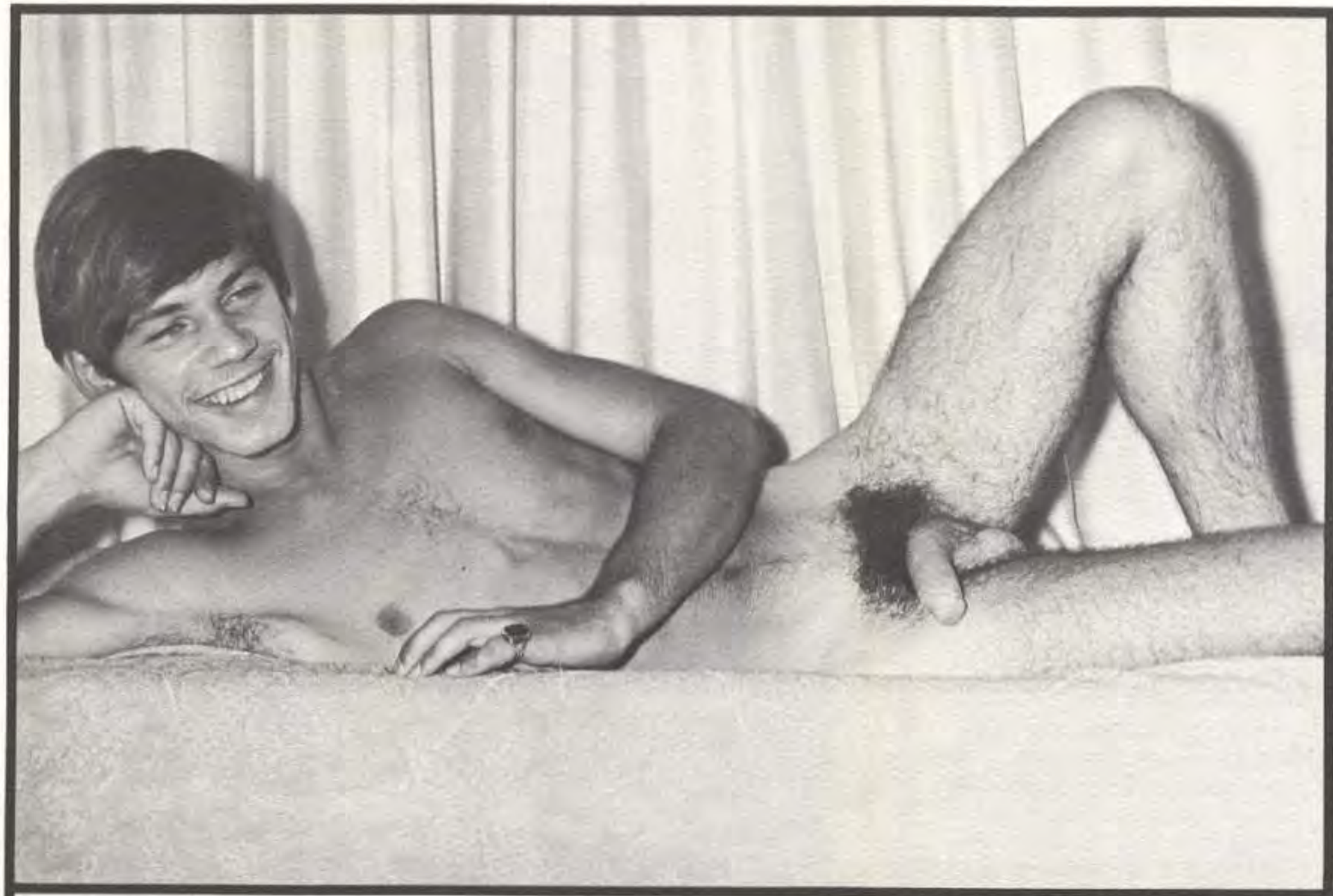

It's hard to say where or when the go-go craze started, but this much is for certain: It sure has made itself felt! What does it take to be a go-go boy? Well, it's not classically good or sexy looks, necessarily. Most important, it's just a certain something you can't put your finger on, a combination of talents that makes you groove with the act.

The highest-priced go-go boys generally seem to be the ones whom their captivated audience would just as soon watch, from top to bottom. The music doesn't matter much. It helps; but it's the boy's "body interpretations" that make the show.

One of Los Angeles' best (and best paid) go-go boys, a trim, well-proportioned young stud who goes by the professional name of Ron Ryder, told us in an interview in his West Hollywood apartment: "The job is fairly glamorous and all that, but it's hard work, just like anything else you take seriously. You really have to take something seriously if you want to do it well."

We asked Ron what he liked the best and the least about his go-go gig. He looked at us with eyes as round as saucers, and with an infectious smile said, "The best thing, I'd say, is the people I get to meet. Actually though, there's really not just one thing I like the best. Another thing that means a lot to me is it's creative. I don't just dance, I try to interpret."

"And would you say you communicate?"

Ron laughed, and said very emphatically, "I'd say sometimes I communicate *too* well." He went

on to explain: "There was this time, for instance, when a middle-aged businessman, obviously drunk but otherwise very straight looking, completely let his frustrated self go, lunged up onstage — actually a small table that they've bolted to the floor — and kissed me all over! It took five guys to hold him back. I haven't seen him since, I don't know who he was, but the next day he sent me fifty dollars by Western Union!"

In his five months of go-go, Ron has of course adapted his act and made it pretty much a good reflection of that same "new morality" that's made itself felt in all phases of fads, fashions and culture. "It wouldn't be right to call it a strip," Ron says of his act. "My dancing is not a sex tease, intentionally; but that's not to say I don't take a few things off."

"One more question, Ron. It's probably a pretty dirty one, but what do you think of go-go boys, the ones you know?"

"Well, it's a funny thing. I find in a lot of ways I can relate with them, go out with other guys like me and have a good time once in a while. But then there's also this fierce feeling that we're all competing. Each of us, according to the unwritten law, has to be the best. Competition is healthy and all that, but I don't think it should go so far that we can't be a little more friendly. I think friendship is better than competition."

On that gentle note ended our interview with one of the groovi-est go-go boys we've ever met. And considering all that it takes to go go-go, that's saying some-thing!

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